Yes, Sir. The Cuban Foreign Minister visited India from December 16 to 27, 1991.

(b) Various issues of mutual concern were discussed between the two sides. This included discussions on the scope of further trade exchanges between the two countries. As a result, the Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade visited India from February 9 to 12, 1992.

Outlets and LPG Agencies

1481. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies allotted during each of the last two years, State–wise;

(b) the number out of these sanctioned from the discretionary quota; and

(c) the number out of these allotted to physically handicapped, ex–servicemen and scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes during the same period, State–wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a)and (b). During the last 2 years the details of the Letters of Intent issued for Retail Outlets and LPG distributorships are as follows:

	RO	LPG
1989–90	304	184
1990–91	228	100

Out of these 66 retail outlets and 70 LPG distributorships were allotted under the discretionary powers of Government.

(c)	RO	LPG
Physically Handicapped	47	7
Defence	28	13
SC/ST	114	30

Centre–State Relations

1482. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter–State Council at its meeting held in December, 1991, made several recommendations on matters relating to Centre–State relations; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) : (a) and (b). No meeting of the Inter–State Councils was held in December, 1991. A meeting of the Sub–Committee of the Inter–State Council was held on 7th December, 1991. The Sub- Committee considered 27 recommendations of the Commissions on Centre–State Relations (1983–87).

There was a general consensus about 18 of 27 recommendations and nine would be taken up for consideration again after all the 247 recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission's Report had been considered by the Sub–Committee.

The views of the Sub-committee will be placed before the Inter–State Council for its consideration. Further action will be taken

after the Union Government has taken decisions on the recommendations of the Inter-State Council.

[*Translation*]

Fall in Price of Onion

1483. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion has fallen to great extent due to abundant production of onion in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stabilise the price of onion;

(d) whether the Government propose to relax the restriction imposed on export of onion; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be relaxed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Due to bumper production of onions in Maharashtra in the current year, prices of onion have fallen. The prevailing market rates in the various markets are in the range of Rs. 20–110 per quintal.

(c) Government of India have already finalised market intervention scheme in consultation with Government of Maharashtra to purchase 30,000 MTs of onion of fair average quality from 1.1.92 to 29.2.1992 @ Rs. 75/- per quintal. The purchase is to be made equally by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., the Central nodal agency and the State designated agency. The scheme has been approved by Government of India on the condition that the State Government will share losses on equal basis with the Central Government together with previous years' losses and nominate State designated agency. The State Government have not yet communicated their consent to the parameters of the scheme.

(d) Onion, under the Import-Export Policy 1990–93, comes under category of OGL (iv) and its export is canalised through NAFED who along with associate shippers export onion. As such, there is no ban on export of onion.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Review of Pesticides Policy

1484. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several species of insects and pests have become immune to toxic pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review its pesticide policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). In our country the undermentioned insect pests are reported to have developed resistance to pesticides indicated against each: